



LifeHouse Community Church

G2 "Give the Gospel"

Week 5 - GLORY

Love God - Love People - Make Disciples

G5 - Glory

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is."

1 John 3:1-2.

We shall see him as he is; that is a remarkable promise. One day, because of the life and work of Jesus Christ on our behalf – **we shall see God as he is** and we shall be fully and finally changed. Such a vision in our sinful flesh would be the death of us; as God spoke in the Bible: *"you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live."* Exodus 33:20 .

But one day we will, as we were created to do in the beginning. When God created the man and the woman the Bible says that he used to walk with them in the cool of the evening breezes. They saw God and lived, but now, because of our sin which is so very much a part of us, we cannot.

But one day we will. With our sin paid for – more than that – with our sin obliterated (for as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins from us) – one day we will see God and live forever; that's the end for which we are saved. The Bible closes with a picture of that glorious day: *"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be*

*anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. **They will see his face**, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.” Revelation 22:1-5.*

They will see his face, and night will be no more. Hallelujah! What a Savior! What a salvation! What a gospel! Thanks be to God!

Discussion:

The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. In other words, people were created to reflect and to enjoy the glory of God forever. If the Gospel is about getting us back to the original plan of God, then obviously it must end in glory. The Gospel must restore all that was lost in the fall. It must make us like we were, and more than that, it must make us like we were always meant to be. It must prepare us for a future before the face of God forever. That is the glory for which we were made and that is the end of the Gospel story.

Notes:

True or False

1. People were created to bear the likeness and image of God. We were supposed to reflect the glory of God throughout the entire cosmos.
2. When Adam and Eve sinned the image and likeness of God was lost and destroyed in humanity.
3. Because of the fall no man can see God and live. In our sin, we are no longer able to see God or to reflect God in creation.
4. Because of sin our knowledge and vision of God has been severely limited. In the Old Testament people only knew what the prophets told them about God. Other data was available but their minds were too twisted to receive it.
5. Because people could not see God clearly in the Old Testament we have to be careful how we read Old Testament stories. Some of the stories may not tell us much about God, but only something about how sinful people saw God. Therefore much of the Old Testament should be ignored.
6. Jesus is the perfect revelation of God. He is God in the flesh. He's the glory of God filled with grace and truth.
7. The essential character of God is climactically revealed in the life, death, resurrection, and exaltation of Jesus Christ.
8. God will reign over all creation through a human being in eternity. A human being will be God's vice agent over the cosmos in the new heavens and the new earth. A man will reign over creation and under God just like it was supposed to be in the beginning.
9. Not every person who is saved will persevere to the end. Some Christians will not share in the glorious resurrection and ultimate future of God's people because they did not persevere in their faith.
10. There will be people from every tribe, tongue and nation worshipping God and enjoying him forever in the new heavens and the new earth.
11. In the new heavens and the new earth the image of God will be completely restored in us. We will be like Jesus for we will see him as he is.
12. Real Christians respond to the grace of God in Christ by becoming the people they will be in glory.

Scriptures

"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day." (Genesis 1:26-31)

"Moses said, "Please show me your glory." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen." (Exodus 33:18-23)

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

"Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honour him. "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." (John 12:20-28)

"And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified." (Romans 8:30)

"May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." (Romans 15:5-13)

“So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.” (1 Corinthians 15:42-49)

“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” (2 Corinthians 3:18)

“And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire-and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed." (Revelation 15:2-4)